Jennifer Kohl

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EDC 102

From the way the curriculum is taught to the way the tests are graded, each teacher has their own methods of teaching a class. It is easy to see educational philosophies differences between different school districts, communities, and even cultures. As someone that wants to pursue a job in education, I see why it would be important for and educator to develop their own educational philosophy. After reading chapter five in *Foundations of American Education,* I realized that there are many more educational philosophies than I knew existed. In every philosophy, there were parts that I agreed with and parts that I disagreed with. The philosophies that I feel reflected my own educational beliefs the most were humanism and constructivism. Humanism encourages educators to help their students become the best possible people that they and be and constructivism emphasizes the importance of hands on learning.

 The core concept of humanism is the idea that all people are born innately good. This philosophy is derived from Jean- Jacques Rousseau’s that people are not in fact born a blank slate, all people are born good and it is outside forces that have the ability to corrupt them. He also believed that people are born with freewill, but they become slaves to systemic institutionalization. Humanist believe that this is one of the biggest problems with education, school do not encourage individuality. They seek to calculate what the student is going to do next and tries to manipulate behaviors. Humanists believed that students should leave school with the ability to think for themselves and make critical decisions without influence from others. A student should not just learn to copy a teacher’s behavior, they should be active in their learning and become autonomous. I agree with this philosophy because it is critical that people learn to think for themselves. Learning to think for yourself is not just something that will help you in school, rather it is a life skill that will make you a more active member of society. People are easily brainwashed by media outlets, their parents, or even teachers. It is important to realize that many news outlets are very bias and sometimes stretch the truth in order to prove a point. For example, there are people that take Fox News as a hundred percent truth. Fox News is obviously a very conservative and biased news outlet. People that take Fox News as fact do not take into consideration that there are other sides to the story, making them unable to form their own opinions. I agree with the educational philosophy of humanism because it encourages free thought and individuality.  Through this teaching, people learn to make their own opinions and are not as easily influenced but other people’s views. It’s important that teacher emphasize the importance of free will and free though in order to create more autonomous students.

Another educational philosophy that I think is important is constructivism. Constructivism emphasizes the importance of hands- on activities in order to encourage learning.  This philosophy also says that teachers should not simply present a lecture to a class, teachers should create activities for their students that allows them to learn through experience. Constructivism relates to humanism because they both encourage students learning things for themselves without the influence of  society. I believe that these activities are important because they help students not only learn the material, but also develop a point of view. Personally, I feel like I learn the most when classes are set up like this. I have a hard time paying attention when classes are only lectures. I like lesson that allow students to be involved. In this style of teaching, there is a strong emphasis on discussion based classes. I feel like discussion based classes are really important because they help students develop their own views. Also, there are many different ideas that are share. Perhaps even ideas that the teacher had not come up with. Class discussions are also important because students learn to articulate their ideas in a clear manner. Constructivism is an important educational philosophy because it encourages students to learn things for themselves without having a teacher directly influence them.

There are many important  educational philosophies that teachers should learn and understand. I believe that the philosophies that most align with my views are humanism and constructivism. Humanism emphasizes the importance of the individual. Students must be encouraged to learn things for their own in order to become autonomous individuals. Closely related to humanists, constructivist believe that hands- on learning should be emphasized. Students will have a clear grasp of the material if they are given the opportunity to teach it to themselves. My personal education philosophy are centered the idea that a student should not only learn course material in school. They should learn responsibility and autonomy, which both humanism and constructivism emphasize.